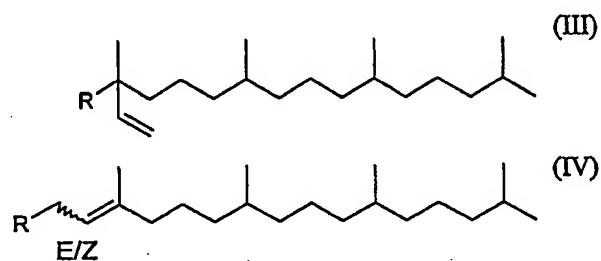


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is concerned with a novel process for the manufacture of α -tocopheryl acetate which comprises reacting 2,3,6-trimethylhydroquinone-1-acetate with a compound selected from the group consisting of phytol (formula IV with R = OH), iso-phytol (formula III with R = OH), and (iso) phytol derivatives represented by the following formulae III and IV with R = C₂-to C₅-alkonoyloxy, benzoyloxy, mesyloxy, bezenesul-fonyloxy or tosyloxy,



(IV) in the presence of a catalyst of the formula $M^{n+}(R^1SO_3^-)_n$, wherein M^{n+} is a silver, copper, gallium, hafnium or rare earth metal cation, n is the valence of the cation M^{n+} , and R_1 is fluorine, C₁₋₈-perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroaryl, and, if required, cyclizing any 3-phytyl-2,5,6-trimethylhydroquinone-1-acetate or a double bond isomer thereof obtained as an intermediate reaction product, to produce α -tocopheryl acetate. In the catalyst M^{n+} is preferably Ag^+ , Cu^+ , Ga^{3+} , Sc^{3+} , Lu^{3+} , Ho^{3+} , Tm^{3+} , Yb^{3+} or Hf^{4+} .